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## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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MIKE NAVARRE  
MAYOR

September 30 1999

Mr. Jim Scholl, Area Planner  
Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities  
3 122 Channel Drive  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7898

Re: Williamsport-Pile Bay Road

Dear Mr. Scholl:

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 05 1999**

**DOT & PF Division  
of Statewide Planning**

I have been informed by Mr. Walt Wrede, Borough Manager for Lake and Peninsula Borough, of their request that the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities reconsider its ranking of the road improvements to the Williamsport-Pile Bay Road. This road is located partly in Lake and Peninsula Borough and partly in the Kenai Peninsula Borough ("KPB"). I am writing to add the support of the KPB to Mr. Wrede's request.

The KPB's quest for improvements to this road has extended over several years. The Corps of Engineers prepared a reconnaissance study in 1993 and a feasibility study in 1995. Through enactment of KPB Resolution 93-103, the borough agreed to act as local sponsor for the reconnaissance study. Matching funds were obtained from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The reconnaissance study found the project to be economically feasible and environmentally acceptable. The 1995 feasibility study further confirmed these findings. More recently, through adoption of KPB Resolution 99-010, the KPB Assembly reiterated their support of this project by including it on their list of capital priorities. In its comments to the pre-draft STIP for 2001-2003, dated September 20, 1999, the KPB also requested reconsideration be given to this project in hopes that it would receive a higher score for ranking in the STIP.

Improvements to this road can add to the economic stability of this area, plus address many of the health and safety concerns. The commercial fishing fleet uses the Williamsport Road as a critical transportation link between Cook Inlet and Bristol Bay. Without this road, or when it is impassable, the trip to Bristol Bay by Cook Inlet fishermen is increased by 1,000 miles. For this reason, many residents attempt to use the road even when it is unsafe. Road improvements would not only benefit the commercial fishermen, but would also enhance tourism development. Because of the positive impacts to the economy and the reduction of health and safety concerns, the KPB also encourages your support and funding of this very worthwhile project.

Very truly yours,

Mike Navarre  
Borough Mayor

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cc: Mr. Walt Wrede, Lake & Peninsula Borough  
John Horn, P.E., DOT/PF Regional Director  
John Tolley, DOT/PF Chief Planning Administration